

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

NAVY SEALs 1-3, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

LLOYD J. AUSTIN, III in his official capacity as
United States Secretary of Defense, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 4:21-cv-01236-O

**DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF RESCISSION OF
DOD COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENT**

Defendants file this notice to inform the Court that on January 10, 2023, the Secretary of Defense implemented Section 525 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (“NDAA”). *See* Pub. L. No. 117-263, § 525 (Dec. 23, 2022), 136 Stat 2395. Section 525 of the NDAA directs the Secretary, within 30 days, to rescind the August 2021 memorandum requiring vaccination of service members for COVID-19.

Pursuant to the NDAA, the Secretary of Defense issued a memo on January 10, 2023, rescinding his August 24, 2021 memorandum which required COVID-19 vaccination, and rescinding his November 30, 2021 memorandum which required COVID-19 vaccination for members of the National Guard and the Ready Reserve. *See* 1/10/2023 SECDEF Memo (“Rescission Memo”) (attached as Ex. A).

The Rescission Memo prohibits separations based solely on refusal of the COVID-19 vaccine by service members who sought an exemption. *Id.* The Rescission Memo further directs the Services to update the records of individuals currently serving to remove any adverse actions solely associated with the denial of an accommodation request. *Id.* The Rescission Memo also halts the processing of requests for exemption to the now-defunct mandate. *Id.*

Dated: January 11, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division

ALEXANDER K. HAAS
Director, Federal Programs Branch

ANTHONY J. COPPOLINO
Deputy Branch Director
Federal Programs Branch

/s/ Andrew E. Carmichael
ANDREW E. CARMICHAEL (VA Bar. No. 76578)
AMY E. POWELL
Senior Trial Counsel
STUART J. ROBINSON
Senior Counsel
ZACHARY A. AVALLONE
COURTNEY D. ENLOW
LIAM C. HOLLAND
CASSANDRA M. SNYDER
Trial Attorney
United States Department of Justice
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 514-3346
Fax: (202) 616-8470
Email: Andrew.e.carmichael@usdoj.gov

Counsel for Defendants